LIFE AND LETTERS

Volume XI

October 1934 to March 1935

KRAUS REPRINT CORPORATION
New York
1967

Printed in U.S.A.

Life and Letters

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A DISTINGUISHED and cynical observer of current events remarked the other day that at no previous moment in human history had there been so much activity and so little achievement in the literary world. We do not propose on this occasion to discuss the implications of his remark, beyond suggesting that his verdict on what he saw was quite probably correct, but that equally probably his opinion was arrived at through not knowing where to look to see something else. We suspect that there are quite a number of other people, bemused by the loud cries of popular critics and over-enthusiastic publishers, who would endorse his opinion; we suspect further that they are victims of the same error. It is, in brief, beyond the ability of anyone who does not devote his whole time to the task to know precisely what *is* happening in the literary world to-day, and only to one person in a thousand is given the requisite time to do so. For the other nine hundred and ninety nine (or rather for those of them who are not content indefinitely to share the distinguished cynic's bewilderment) there is the alternative of relying on the literary pages of *THE SPECTATOR*. In the adjoining column is given a list of writers who have contributed to our literary pages during the first half of 1934. We believe that their names alone will be enough to substantiate our contention that our literary pages have an authority and distinction which are to-day unrivalled among English periodicals.

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Bonamy Dobrée
V. Sackville-West
V. S. Pritchett
Peter Fleming
Hamish Miles
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Gilbert Murray
William Plomer
Siegfried Sassoon
H. E. Bates
C. E. M. Joad
Stephen Spender
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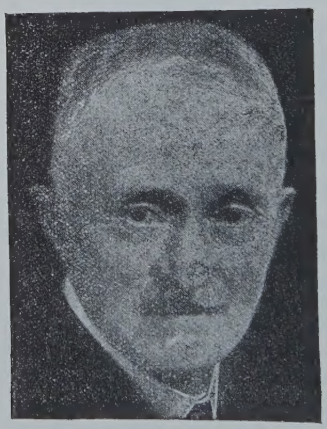

Mr. John Masefield

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